

# Black River Audubon Society

# WINGTIPS



BOREAL CHICKADEE photo by Dane Adams

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## **Program**

Tuesday, January 7 (Notice the date!), 7 p.m.

Carlisle Visitor Center

### **Dan Best**

Senior Naturalist, Geauga Park District

#### **Rest in Peat: Extinct Ice Age Animals of Ohio**



Dan Best, a life-long resident of Northeast Ohio, grew up in Avon Lake and now lives in Chardon. He earned a degree in Environmental Interpretation at The Ohio State University's School of Natural Resources. Dan is Senior Naturalist at the Geauga Park District, where he has been employed for the past 27 years.

This program provides an overview of the Ice Age mammals in Ohio with a focus on finds in and near the Western Reserve.

## **Field Trip**

Saturday, January 18, 9 a.m.

### **Lorain Harbor and Avon Lake**

Meet at parking lot, Jackalope Restaurant,  
(John Pogacnik)

#### **A Birder's Diary: Student Studies**

By **Carol Leininger**

While in high school, I started birding, and in college I spent one summer at Stone Lab, a field station operated by Ohio State University. It occupies Gibraltar Island just off Put-in-Bay on South Bass Island. I loved my first experience with the Lake Erie islands, which included a course in ornithology.

Our teacher specialized in red-wing blackbirds, and we studied aspects of the species. Our field trips were memorable –rowing a boat to South Bass Island and marching about wearing binoculars about our necks and carrying long bamboo poles with mirrors on one end.

I often wondered what the tourists at Put-in-Bay thought of us hiking in field outfits while busily recording our sightings in notebooks.

I don't remember exactly what we learned in our projects, but we had a great time checking the eggs and young in nests high up in the trees. I decided that I wanted to be a biologist.



## Mueller Woods

By **Grant Thompson**,

On Saturday, November 16, 2013, fifteen members and guests of Black River Audubon ventured into the woods of the Lorain County Metro Parks, Mueller Woods. Purchased in November of 2001 the Mueller Woods is considered “first growth” and can best be described as an oak-maple swamp forest with dominant species of white oak, swamp white oak, red maple and red oak. Other common species include pin oak, shagbark hickory, and white ash. Because many of the predominant trees are fourteen or more feet in girth, the trees are considered to be “first growth”.

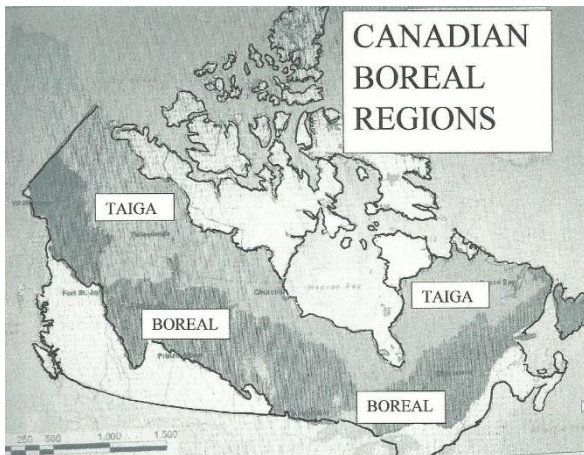


The property straddles Indian Hollow Road about one-half mile south of Parsons Rd., and was acquired as a 130-acre parcel. Approximately 40-acres of the western part is the “Woods” portion. Deer are abundant, and we spied many instances of buck-rub on the younger trees.

The property was first brought to the attention of the Metro Parks after the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources unsuccessfully attempted to purchase the “Woods” in 1986.

Future considerations for this property may include a raised dike surrounding three sides of the existing farmed fields that would restore approximately 39 acres of wetlands. The tops of the dike might provide a trail for public use. Public access into the woods might be achieved by construction of an off-shoot trail.

## Canadian Boreal Regions



The northern Taiga ecozones are thinly treed with many bogs and fens, and the southern Boreal ecozones are largely uninterrupted forest.

- More than 30% of North America’s bird population relies on the Boreal regions for breeding, including boreal chickadee, boreal owl, as well as many warblers such as yellow-rumped

warblers.

- 325 bird species depend on Boreal shelter during their lives.
- More than 26 million ducks and waterfowl nest and breed in Canada’s Boreal regions each year.
- 30% of the Canadian Boreal regions are covered by wetlands with an estimated 1.5 million lakes.
- The Boreal Forest comprises 25 % of the world’s remaining original forests.



YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER  
photo by William Bofinger

**Sources:** *Wikipedia; Canadian Boreal Initiative*





BOREAL OWL photo by Dane Adams

### **Save the dates!**

The Great Backyard Bird Count is February 14-17, 2014.

### **Bluebird Program at the Oberlin Public Library**

At the Oberlin Public Library's main meeting room, 2 p.m., Saturday, January 11, 2014, Penny and Fritz Brandau, Black River Audubon Society, will talk about attracting bluebirds. They will discuss how to choose the right habitat and nest box, how to deal with bluebird predators and competitors, and how to monitor a nest box. Registration is requested by calling 440-670-3684.

## BIRDS OF MAGEE MARSH AREA NEED YOUR HELP!

The globally important bird habitat of Magee Marsh Wildlife Area and vicinity is threatened by poorly-sited wind energy development. Black Swamp Bird Observatory is campaigning to convince elected officials to stop these projects. Birders everywhere can help.

Noted ornithologist and author, Kenn Kaufman, emphasizes that "Despite objections from government wildlife agencies, a wide range of organizations, and many private citizens, developers are going ahead with plans to put up huge bird (and bat) -killing turbines in the heart of Ohio's most important bird habitat. Camp Perry and the Lake Erie Business Park are showing utter disregard for the people and wildlife of this region."

Black Swamp Bird Observatory asks birders everywhere to contact Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, who represents the area affected, to protest the threats to migrating birds and the accompanying loss of tourist income.

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur  
One Maritime Plaza - Sixth Floor  
Toledo, OH 43604  
(800) 964-4699 - Tel: (419) 259-7500  
Fax: (419) 255-9623  
Email electronic form:  
[http://www.kaptur.house.gov/index.php?option=com\\_content](http://www.kaptur.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content)

### January birds in Angie Adkins' yard

- Cooper's hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, red-shouldered hawk, red-tailed hawk, mourning dove, barred owl, hairy woodpecker, downy woodpecker, red-bellied woodpecker, pileated woodpecker,
- blue jay, American crow, tufted titmouse, black-capped chickadee, red-breasted nuthatch, white-breasted nuthatch, Carolina wren, American robin, European starling,
- northern cardinal, dark-eyed junco, American tree sparrow, fox sparrow, song sparrow, brown-headed cowbird, house sparrow, common redpoll, pine siskin, American goldfinch, house finch.

### Boreal Chickadee

*Poecile hudsonica*

#### By Cathy Priebe

If you are lucky enough to have a boreal chickadee visit your Ohio backyard, you will not have any difficulty separating it from our resident black-capped or Carolina chickadees.

Formerly called the "brown-capped" chickadee, this bird is slightly larger than its black-capped cousin. It has a mostly-grayish brown cap on a relatively large head, a black bib, and chestnut washed sides. It has very little white on its body.

Its name gives us a clue as to where this bird resides. It is very partial to spruce (balsam fir) trees and also some mixed deciduous trees found mainly in a boreal forest. This chickadee is very common in sub-tundra Canada and Alaska, the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, northern Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire, the Adirondacks of New York, northern Wisconsin and Minnesota, northwest Idaho and the mountains in northern Washington.

Although described as a generally non-migratory bird, the boreal chickadee has been known to occasionally irrupt (when food supplies dwindle) and fly south with black-capped chickadees as far as New Jersey, Pennsylvania and states bordering Canada.

Ohio boasts four recorded sightings of the boreal chickadee. The first two records were in Lakewood (Rocky River Reservation, November 16, 1963) and Kirtland Hills, November/December, 1963. According to the *Cleveland Bird Calendar Archives* and *Birds of*



*the Cleveland Region*, the third was found in Columbia Township (Lorain County, 1964): “A single bird was recorded on five dates in March from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> and lastly on April 2. Each time it was feeding on suet at a feeder three feet from the observer’s house....”

The last recorded Ohio sighting was in Waite Hill, December 23, 1972 where it was mist-netted, banded and photographed before being released. Few if any reported identifications of boreal chickadees have been made in the Cleveland area in recent years.

Make sure you pay close attention to chickadees at your feeders this winter. Maybe you can be the next person to record a sighting of a rare Ohio visit from a boreal chickadee!!

**References:** *Birds of the Cleveland Region* by Larry Rosche; *The Cleveland Bird Calendar Archives, 1963, 1964 and 1972*; *National Geographic Complete Birds of North America* by Jonathan Alderfer; *Pete Dunne’s Essential Field Guide Companion* by Pete Dunne; *Birds of Ohio* by Jim McCormac.

## Wellington Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 28, 2013

For more information 440-225-7601

### BOREAL OWL

*Aegolius funereus*

- Size: slightly larger than Eastern screech owl
- Range: Boreal region of Canada and Alaska, some mountain ranges of western USA.
- Markings: earless, pale grayish-white facial disk with dark framing, pale bill, forehead thickly spotted with white
- Habitat: mixed and conifer forest, muskeg
- Hunts: mostly at night
- Nest: tree cavities, nest boxes
- Migration: irregular invasion south
- Ohio’s only reported boreal owl in Lake County 1997

## Wind Turbine Company Fined \$1 Million for Killing Birds

By **Harry Spencer**

According to Emma G. Fitzsimmons of the New York Times, Duke Energy Renewables, a subsidiary of Duke Energy, in November 2013 pleaded guilty in Federal District Court in Wyoming to violating the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The company was charged with killing golden eagles and other birds at two wind turbine projects in Wyoming since 2009.



“In this plea agreement, Duke Energy Renewables acknowledges that it constructed these wind projects in a manner it knew beforehand would likely result in avian deaths,” Robert G. Dreher, the acting assistant attorney general for the Justice Department’s environment and natural resources division, said in a statement.”

Duke Energy agreed to pay \$1 million in fines as part of the Justice Department’s first criminal case against a wind power company for the deaths of protected birds.



**Frequent visitor at the Spencer bird-feeding area, autumn 2013**



OPOSSUM photo by H Spencer